

HOW TO BECOME A TAXI OR PRIVATE HIRE CAR DRIVER IN ABERDEEN

You need to hold a current **Full UK Driving Licence** and to have held it, free of any disqualifications or restrictions, for at least a year. Certain foreign driving licences may be acceptable in some circumstances.

Most applicants prefer to obtain a taxi driver's licence as opposed to a private hire car driver's licence. The cost and checks for both types of licences are the same, but a taxi driver's licence allows you to drive taxis and private hire cars. A private hire car driver's licence only allows you to drive a private hire car through a radio control office. It is your choice.

Before you apply for either licence, you should contact our **Taxi Inspection Centre, 38 Powis Terrace, Kittybrewster, Tel 01224 489300, email licensing@aberdeencity.gov.uk**

As you have to pass a **Street Knowledge Test** before you get your licence, you will need to have a detailed knowledge of the layout of streets in Aberdeen. The Taxi Inspection Centre can provide you with names and phone numbers of various private companies who offer training for the "knowledge test" and other taxi related issues.

You will be subject to a **Police criminal history check** as a routine part of your application. If you have any previous convictions or pending criminal charges and you are uncertain whether these will affect the outcome of your application, you may wish to raise this confidentially with the Taxi Inspector before you make your application. The Taxi Inspector will be able to give you guidance.

You may have a **medical condition** that does not prevent you holding a full driving licence, but may prevent you from obtaining a taxi or private hire driver's licence. You may wish to discuss this confidentially with the Taxi Inspector, before you make an application. The Taxi Inspector will be able to give you guidance.

Once you are confident that you can pass the street knowledge test, you can then apply for your licence. For **application forms** and current **fees** click on the application forms link on our website at <http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/licensing>. Forms can also be obtained (in paper format) from the Taxi Inspection Centre (address above), the District Court, Queen Street, and from the reception area of the Town House

When your application is received, you will be given an appointment to sit the street knowledge test at the Taxi Inspection Centre. You will have to produce your driving licence and two passport sized photographs. You may, at the discretion of the Taxi Inspector, be allowed three attempts to pass the test. If you are having difficulty passing the test, you may wish to withdraw your application and apply again.

This is because the Council must, by law, decide on your application within 6 months or you making it. If you have not passed the street knowledge test within that time your application will be refused and then, also by law you are barred from re-applying for a year. It will therefore protect your own interests to withdraw your application so that it cannot be refused. You may then re-apply whenever you like. Please note that there will be no refund for fees in these circumstances. You will also have to take a short driving test under the supervision of the Taxi Inspector. This will take place on a different day from the street knowledge test.

If you pass the tests and the police checks are clear, your licence will be granted. If you fail either of the tests, or the police object to your application, you will be invited to attend a meeting of the Licensing Committee to argue your case before the Elected Members who will decide your application. (for Committee meeting dates click on Meeting Dates link on our website). If your application is refused, you have a right of appeal to the Sheriff Court.

A taxi driver's licence permits you to drive or be in charge of a taxi or private hire car. A private hire car driver's licence permits you to drive or be in charge of a Private Hire Car only.

If you wish to operate a vehicle as a taxi or private hire car, you need to hold another separate licence known as a **Taxi** or **Private Hire Car Licence** which licences the vehicle. There is a separate procedure for obtaining either of these licences.

This guidance is provided for your information only and you are strongly encouraged to obtain independent advice from your own solicitor and/or accountant.